



REVIEWS OF BOOKS AND AUDIOVISUAL AIDS

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A Guide to Dermatohistopathology, Second Edition, Hermann Pinkus and Amir H. Mehregan. Appleton-Century-Crofts, New York, 1976. (724 pp; \$35.00)

By virtue of adding entirely new material and further development of that formerly covered, this second edition of Pinkus and Mehregan, *A Guide to Dermatohistopathology*, represents a considerable expansion of the first edition. The list of subjects covered has been lengthened to the point where little is wanting; thus, the second edition has become even more useful as an everyday reference text for dermatopathologists.

The chapters derive from a series of lectures by these authors given to residents in training, and retain the highly personal style which made the first edition so interesting. The discussions on various aspects of dermatology and dermatopathology are always lucid, often brilliant. The authors' unparalleled insight into pathologic mechanisms comes through repeatedly in their discussion of various skin disorders, and their emphasis on underlying principles makes the book required reading for those beginning the study of dermatopathology. The first 100 pages, dealing with normal structure of skin and technical considerations, are alone worth the modest price of the book.

The quality of the printing and illustrations is good; many reproductions carried over from the first edition have been improved in quality. Unfortunately, my copy of the book arrived with the cover already torn loose and will have to be rebound immediately. It is unfortunate that a book which will be used so many times every week in the laboratory could not have been made stronger. Despite this minor flaw, the second edition of *A Guide to Dermatohistopathology* is highly recommended. It should be required reading for all those who want to have an in-depth understanding of dermatopathology. In its expanded second edition, Pinkus and Mehregan will rival other texts as a standard reference handbook. If you want to refer to this book in your laboratory, look for it, not on the bookshelf, but on the bench next to the microscope.

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Dermatitis Herpetiformis, John O'Donel Alexander, F.R.C.P.(Glas.). Volume IV of **Major Problems in Dermatology**. W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia, 1975. (346 pp; \$24.50)

The only unfortunate aspect of this book is its title. Much more than a discourse on dermatitis herpetiformis, this monograph represents a scholarly, comprehensive, and critical review of reports (with some 1975 references) on the clinical, histologic, ultrastructural, and immunologic aspects of not only dermatitis herpetiformis (DH), but also juvenile DH, bullous pemphigoid, cicatricial pemphigoid, pemphigus, erythema multiforme, and herpes gestationis. The author, in the first chapter, has included a wealth of detail in regard to early descriptions of DH and its differentiation from the other blistering diseases, which, although of questionable interest to the clinician, is important for the historian. Also included are chapters on the small intestine in DH with a comparison to the intestinal changes in celiac disease, genetic aspects of DH, treatment, miscellaneous laboratory investigations, influence of iodides on DH, and differential diagnosis of DH. Dr. Alexander concludes with a chapter on speculations on the etiology of DH based on current available information. He has particularly emphasized the numerous and remarkable advances made in the understanding of DH in the past 10 years.

This book can be viewed as a readable and well-illustrated sequel to Lever's classic *Pemphigus and Pemphigoid* and as an adjunct to Beutner et al's recent book, *Immunopathology of the Skin-Labeled Antibody Studies*. This is the fourth in a series of fine monographs on *Major Problems in Dermatology* edited by Dr. Arthur Rook and should be of great interest to all dermatologists, and to clinical immunologists who are interested in blistering skin diseases.

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The Vulva, Constance Marjorie Ridley, M.A., B.M., F.R.C.P. Volume V of **Major Problems in Dermatology**. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1975. (299 pp; \$18.00)